

In the Claims:

1-26 (canceled)

27. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 31 wherein said step of providing an added conductive region is selected from a group consisting at least in part of sputtering, evaporating, and plating.

28. (previously presented) The method of Claim 31 wherein said step of fabricating a planar outer surface of said added conductive region comprises the step of depositing a second of at least one added conductive layer by electroless plating.

29. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 31 wherein said step of fabricating a planar outer surface of said added conductive region comprises the step of depositing a second of at least one added conductive layer by screen printing.

30. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 31 wherein said step of fabricating a planar outer surface of said added conductive region comprises the step of depositing a second of at least one added conductive layer by using the method of support by islands of protective overcoat.

31. (currently amended) A method for fabricating a semiconductor assembly comprising the steps of:

providing a semiconductor chip having a planar active surface including an integrated circuit, said integrated circuit having a metallization patterns including a plurality of at least one contact pads at said planar active surface;

providing a protective overcoat over said planar active surface, said protective overcoat including windows exposing said at least one ~~plurality of~~ contact pads, said window having sidewalls;

providing an added conductive region having at least one conductive layer on said metallization pattern covering and conformal to ~~each of~~ said at least one contact pads, said sidewalls of said windows and a portion of said protective overcoat surrounding said windows, said added conductive region having a planar outer surface, said outer surface of said added conductive region suitable to form metallurgical bonds without melting;

providing a assembly board having at least one ~~a plurality of~~ planar, metallurgically bondable terminal pads in a distribution aligned with the distribution of said at least one contact pads;

aligning said added conductive region metallization and said at least one terminal ~~board~~ pads so that ~~each of~~ said at least one contact pads is connected to a corresponding ~~board~~ terminal pad; and

metallurgically bonding said added conductive region metallization and said ~~board~~ at least one terminal pads without melting said outer surface of said added conductive region.

32. (previously presented) The method according to Claim 31 wherein said bonding comprises one of the following assembly techniques:

direct welding by metallic interdiffusion;

attaching including solder paste;

attaching including a conductive adhesive.